

the United States. In return, the Federal Government entered into a number of agreements that promised to provide health care services among many other benefits to Native Americans.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights report notes that specifically Native Americans are 770 percent more likely to die from alcoholism, 650 percent more likely to die from tuberculosis, 427 percent more likely to die from diabetes, 280 percent more likely to die from accidents, and 52 percent more likely to die from pneumonia or influenza than the rest of the United States, including white and other minority populations. These statistics are appalling, and I think they are just plain heart breaking.

There are many reasons why this health status of Native Americans continues to be poor, such as social and cultural and structural barriers, but the number one reason why American Indians and Alaska natives suffer disproportionately from a poor health status is because the United States Government refuses to invest the funding needed to improve the health status for Native Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government is willing to expend nearly twice the amount of Federal dollars to fund health care services for Federal criminals than it spends on health care services for Native Americans. How does that seem fair?

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Government can and must do better by American Indians and Alaska natives. The first step towards achieving that goal is reauthorizing the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. This legislation is designed to provide parity between Native American health care and the rest of America. The bill enjoys the support of Indian country and bipartisan support in the House and Senate. Yet it languishes in this Congress, awaiting the administration to submit its views.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to press upon the Bush administration to send its statement of administration policy to the Congress so we can pass this important piece of legislation. The longer we take, the longer Native Americans will continue to suffer.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GINGREY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BLUMENAUER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REPUBLICANS GRILL BERGER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, well, today we finally have the 9/11 Commission report; but unfortunately on the other side of the aisle, they want to focus on Sandy Berger, a former high-ranking official in the Clinton administration and his transgressions, whatever they might be. Whatever they might be, they did not kill 3,000 people. They did not destroy the World Trade Center. They did not attack the Pentagon, the United States of America, attempted to attack the Capitol and the White House, and he is not planning another attack on the United States of America, unlike al Qaeda, who is still out there planning another attack.

In fact, we have heard from the head of homeland security. It is an imminent threat of attack that will happen sometime between now and the election. And this report points to the fact that we have not taken the steps necessary to utilize and better utilize the resources of the Government of the United States of America to forestall that attack.

Now, remember, a number of us on this side of the aisle called for a Cabinet-level position to coordinate intelligence on the head of the homeland security. The President said no; but after public opinion moved against him, finally they threw out a proposal, just about 2 years ago today.

And 2 years ago today they threw out this proposal, full-blown from the basement of the White House, to create a 270,000-person bureaucracy that would be the Department of Homeland Security; but curiously enough, it did not go to the issues raised in this report, which is it did not touch the intelligence agencies, the CIA, all the intelligence agencies at the Defense Department. They were excluded from Homeland Security. It did not go to the FBI, who failed to coordinate and get the information and share information with the CIA and let people into the country who were on a terrorist watch list, but we let them into the country with visas who were some of the perpetrators of this attack.

They say we need to make major structural changes to address those deficiencies. We have not made them. The Department of Homeland Security did not do it. We created this little weeny thing called the TTIC, Terrorist Threat Information Center, where the various agencies sent over short-term detailees who have no authority, who are supposed to share; but they still do not share. They do not like to share. We have multibillion dollar intelligence agencies, and they are like 3-year-olds. It is mine; it is mine. They do not want to share. Unfortunately, people die when they do not share, and we need to break down that culture.

Now they want to go back and blame Berger and the Clinton administration.

This report says both the Clinton administration, the Clinton administration and the Bush administration are to blame, but that is history. What are we going to do today to adopt the recommendations of this report? Because they say the problems are ongoing. They are ongoing. They are still not sharing. We are still not coordinating. We are not defending ourselves to the best of our ability. They make two recommendations, a national counterterrorism center. Great idea, seems like to me. And a national intelligence director, who would be appointed by the President, based in the White House, with a large staff and would have the authority to make the intelligence agencies and the FBI share. No more 3-year-olds saying mine, mine, you cannot have it, but make them share in a meaningful way.

Put together the pieces of the puzzle. They point out here we had 10 pieces of the puzzle, but we failed to put it together. We cannot fail again, but they are saying we will. This is a non-partisan report, unanimous by Republicans and Democrats alike. Most former elected officials, Governors, Senators, Members of Congress. This should not be politicized.

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Let us not waste time down here talking about Sandy Berger. Maybe he committed a crime, maybe. Maybe he did not. Fine. They are investigating, put him in jail if he committed the crime. That is not the point. The point is there is someone out there planning an attack on the United States today which has nothing to do with what that guy might have done or not done, but it has a lot to do with what we have not done here with the inadequacies of the Homeland Security Department that we adopted 2 years ago that are ongoing.

It is all in this report. I urge people to get a copy, to read it and to demand that their Members of Congress, their Senators take meaningful action in the near future.

CELEBRATING INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I offer my warmest congratulations to the people of India and the Indian Diaspora as we approach India's Independence Day on August 15.

On that day in 1947, India marched forward into a future of uncertainty. With a struggling economy and high illiteracy and poverty rates, many challenges lay in India's path. Now many of these challenges have been overcome and greater economic opportunities have been created every day for the people of India.

More importantly, India is our ally and a democratic friend. America is

the world's oldest democracy and India is the world's largest democracy. We are increasing bilateral trade and increasing military ties through military exercises. We face the same threat from joint terrorists who are targeting innocent civilians unable to defend themselves. Terrorists attacked an Indian airlines plane in 1999 and stabbed an Indian passenger to death, and this same network of terrorists have beheaded innocent people who have tried to help the people of the Middle East. This shows we are allies in the global war on terror and we must work together to eradicate this menace to civilization.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.

9/11 COMMISSION REPORT FINDINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HENSARLING). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, let me just note that I do not believe that anyone has had a chance, including my colleague that was just down on the floor, to read the entire testimony or the entire 9/11 Commission's report. I have just read the executive summary and not the entire book, as I find it almost impossible that anyone has, considering the fact that it was just distributed today at 11:30 in the morning.

But let me note that there is every reason in the world to be concerned about Sandy Berger, and for my colleague to cast any type of aspersions on anyone in this body for serious concerns that Mr. Berger, who was the National Security Adviser to President Clinton, has in some ways been guilty of a crime that goes right to the heart of the investigation of 9/11.

Mr. Berger is accused, now he may be innocent, and I am not saying that he is guilty, but he is being accused of taking documents out of the archives of the United States that go directly to the issues that my colleague was just addressing on the floor.

The fact that our colleague would be downplaying the importance of the accusation against Mr. Berger is mind boggling, and I hope that the public looks very carefully at who is really serious about the security of the United States of America. Anyone who downplays the potential damage that Mr. Berger was doing by taking documents out of the Archives, which we do not know which documents, and perhaps inadvertently losing some of them supposedly, this is a very serious charge.

Let me note, my colleague over and over again was talking about the lack of cooperation among the intelligence agencies both domestic and foreign. It was during the Clinton administration under Mr. Berger that the directives were written and the orders were given

that the intelligence agencies that investigate overseas, the CIA, et cetera, would not talk to those agencies. Those law enforcement agencies in the United States, FBI, it was there where that policy was made, and Mr. Berger was well aware of that policy. It came into being under his watch during the Clinton administration, and perhaps those documents that are now missing because what Mr. Berger has done could shed some light on this whole issue.

No, this is very serious. It goes to the heart of the matter. Those people are downplaying the potential of what this, the potential atrocity that has been committed against the public's right to know by Mr. Berger's alleged actions. This is really not something that should be just discarded and not looked at as a very serious issue.

Let me note that what I have seen in the 9/11 Commission report, there are some good suggestions in here; but by and large this has been an attempt to whitewash those specific individuals and the specific policies that caused 9/11. What we have got here are people on both sides of the aisle, and that is correct, working together to make sure we do not hold people specifically accountable. That is one of the problems in this town, why problems never get solved. That is why we never seem to make things better because we do not hold people accountable and we do not go back and say the policies, like I just mentioned, the policy during the Clinton administration, which was by the way written and put into practice by Ms. Gorelick, who is on the 9/11 Commission.

Republicans suggest that Ms. Gorelick, who was the one who wrote down this directive, that there should not be cooperation that my colleague was just talking about, Republicans suggested maybe she is a little biased and should not be on the 9/11 Commission. No, we were called partisan by suggesting that she was biased and this should be a very responsible account rather than an account that is being drafted by someone who is guilty of the very charges that my colleague has just made.

So I would think there is a lot more discussion we need on the issue of 9/11, why it happened. I would suggest that we need to go back at least to the Clinton administration, although I will have to admit that some of the things done during the Reagan years during the war against the Soviet's occupation of Afghanistan made some contribution, but it was the Clinton's administration support for the Taliban and their agreement with the Saudis and the Pakistanis and all along their unwillingness to call the Taliban to task and to join with those against the Taliban that that led to 9/11 and this horrible attack and this war that we are in today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BEREUTER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BOEHLERT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. MONAHAN, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2712. An act to preserve the ability of the Federal Housing Administration to insure mortgages under sections 238 and 519 of the National Housing Act.

9/11 COMMISSION REPORT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) is recognized for half the time remaining until midnight as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to kind of catch up on some of the comments that were made earlier this evening by my friends on the other side of the aisle.

One of our friends suggested that we should involve the international community here in the Iraq situation. I would remind her that the international community, the U.N., the United Nations is involved in the largest scandal, the oil-for-food scandal that this world has seen, almost \$10 billion, and it looks like our friends in France and Russia were involved in taking payoffs and taking oil vouchers at the very time they were taking U.N. Security votes, and even in the press accusing the United States of involving themselves in Iraq for the oil.

That is the international community that we would like to involve. I would remind my friends also that the United Nations cannot even have a definition, they do not have an established definition for terrorism because Syria sits on the Security Council, and Syria will not let our neighbors be characterized in any way as terrorists, and yet our friends call for the involvement of the international community, meaning the United Nations.

I would note that we pointed out last week in a similar venue that the media somehow has seemed to overlook this scandal. They go smelling around and looking for scandals any time the Bush administration makes a decision, but when the facts come to light in the United Nations' largest scandal ever, they simply ignore it.